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THE RELATION OF EXECUTIVE POWER TO LEGISLATION. By Henry Campbell Black. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J., 1919. pp. vii, 191.

This is an interesting and judicious treatment of the subject of the development of the executive power in the United States. "The President has grown into a position of overmastering influence over the legislative department of government." That being the situation in the view of the author, the problem for us Americans is how to shape the future working-out of our political systems. The nature of the problem and the method of solution are indicated in these passages from the preface:

"There are those who tell us that the political philosophy of the founders of the Republic is unsuited to a twentieth-century world, that what they regarded as a self-evident truth is now seen to be only a fetish. If we are not prepared to reject the theory of the separation of powers, we should endeavor by all means to restore the lost equipoise, and to regain the ancient paths of ordered liberty under representative government. But if the new view is correct, or if it is true that executive arrogation of power is the result of forces operating irresistibly in the life of the nation, or the outcome of an evolutionary process which cannot now be reversed, then it becomes us to ask ourselves what we mean to do with our new form of government.

"In this dilemma, we get but little light from the institutions of other countries. An examination of the so-called 'parliamentary' or 'cabinet' system shows it to be entirely unadapted to the government of a country whose constitution provides its executive with a fixed tenure of office. But the fact is patent that there has insensibly grown up around the Constitution a system of usages and conventions, which is only partially within its cognizance, and which is very largely a matter of make-believe. The question is propounded in these pages whether we cannot take this system (if indeed its continuance is inevitable) and put it where it belongs—squarely within the four corners of the Constitution. Suggestions are offered in that behalf. It is not pretended that they furnish the ideal solution of a very serious and difficult problem. But at least they would legalize that which is at best extra-constitutional, deliver the supreme law of the land from a mocking pretense of obedience, and liberate the most important function of a free country's government—the making of its laws—from an atmosphere of shams and subterfuge."

William Carey Jones.

THE YOUNG MAN AND THE LAW. By Simeon E. Baldwin. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. 153 pages.

This book is addressed to youth inquiring what to make of itself. A category of the pros and cons on the question, "What of the law?" its chapters cover "The attractions of the legal profession," "The

personal qualities" requisite, "The education" requisite, the "Ideals of the profession."

Closet philosophers write such books, but this author is no closet philosopher. He is an ex-governor and an ex-chief justice, and has in turn presided over the American Bar Association, the American Historical Association, the American Political Science Association, and the International Law Association. Concurrently with these activities he has long been a professor in the Yale Law School. Training youth in the way it should go, he has been favored with the opportunity on the bench and in public life of seeing him in the going. A book by an author so equipped is of interest to any man and of profit to any prospective lawyer. It is replete with varied learning and suggestive thought.

With such books one is not critical; one is glad that they are written—glad to read the plea for education, for ideals, for character, to find that the judge accepts the sociologist's dictum that the lawyer "needs to get the biological or evolutionary point of view, to conceive society on the way of being different." The general recognition of this truth is the best bar to Bolshevism and action on its principle will ease us rather than explode us into the new era. As the captains of the constructive period of our national history have been the lawyers, so may they be the captains of the transition period, if they carry to their work thorough preparation in the law and an adequate sensitive-ness to the human under-currents affecting its applications in an increasingly complex society. Judge Baldwin's book sets forth both the opportunities and obligations of the profession, optimistic of its placement in the present order. He disagrees with Dean Stone of Columbia that there has been a deterioration in personnel and in public influence on the part of the bar. We are not so sure as is the judge. The economist, the sociologist, the criminologist and the medical man have been doing much constructive thinking, while the best of the lawyers have been cumbered with much business. Professional priestcrafts as well as political ones are being asked by the man in the street to justify themselves.

G. H. Robinson.

Books Received

A TREATISE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW. By Roland R. Foulke. The John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia, 1920. Two volumes, pp. 481, 518, lxxxviii.

PRACTICAL REAL ESTATE LAW. By William X. Reed. Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y., 1920. Two volumes.

AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW. By Hon. A. B. Frey, A.B., LL.B. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. pp. xxv, 514.